



Pittwater House

Pittwater House Schools

Annual Report 2013

The Pittwater House Schools Limited

A Company Limited by Guarantee
ABN 87 000 655 845

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Vision

Pittwater House will continue to be recognised as a leading learning community, committed to excellence in all its endeavours and where every student matters every day as they experience true balance in education.

Mission

Pittwater House is committed to developing high achieving students who are connected to each other and to the communities in which they live and in which they will serve.

Core Values

Each interlinked value provides guidance to students and staff on how to respond to challenges and opportunities that present in our everyday lives.

- Honesty and Integrity
- Consideration for others
- Maximum use of talents
- Flexibility in thinking
- Tradition
- Promoting Democracy



Our Short Term Objectives are to:

- Exhibit energetic and forward thinking leadership
- Develop positive, enthusiastic, capable and empowered staff
- Maintain Twin schooling
- Demonstrate academic and co-curricular success
- Clearly articulate and model our Core Values
- Deliver strong pastoral care
- Provide sustainable financial management

Principal's Message

The Year in Review - 2013

Reflecting on the year past, we have all learnt from yesterday; we have lived for today and we hope for tomorrow. Whatever our role in this small, family oriented school, we learn; we learn from our jobs, we learn from our friends and we learn from our families. 2013 is a year where we can feel proud of the energy, vitality and ambition seen in so many areas of our School. We continue to be focused on an improvement culture across all dimensions of school life and the results of this are seen in the snapshot of Pittwater House contained in this Annual Report.

It is important to recognise that the learning process extends beyond the classroom. All students are encouraged to embrace the opportunities to pursue excellence in each area of school life and it is important to acknowledge that each activity contributes to the overall learning of students and that each of these experiences has contributed to the final year end result for each individual. As a non-selective school, the breadth of abilities and talents of students is varied. This provides a rich mix of

individual achievements and is what makes our school so special. We are therefore proud of all students' results and acknowledge the success of all with respect to their ability and perseverance. A community is only as strong as its members. And we believe strongly that it is the quality of the human relationships that defines Pittwater House. With membership of our community comes the need for proactive involvement along with the responsibility for others and for ourselves. Being an active member of the Pittwater House family gives us a sense of belonging when we share a common purpose and vision. Our community of students, parents, staff, extended family members and alumni rely on a shared belief and common purpose along with positive commitment, involvement and support. It also involves harmony, tolerance, respect, cooperation, responsibility and goodness. Each week we see numerous benefits of a united community that is working together as a team.

Every school year is busy and demanding; 2013 was no less so. We therefore acknowledge the support of all members of our school family for their preparedness to walk with us as we seek to be the best we can be in our continuing focus on academics, and a culture of academic success.

There is a very real sense of expectation, enthusiasm and excitement evident at Pittwater House. I commend this Report to you.



DR NANCY HILLIER
Principal & CEO

The Council of Governors

The Board of Governors of Pittwater House has the ultimate responsibility for all matters relating to the running of the School. Without limiting the generality of the Board's role, its principal functions are focused on determining the policies governing the School's operation and the approval of annual and strategic budgets.

TODD ALEXIS, SC
Chairman

Directors

Mr Todd A Alexis SC	Chairman	24 June 2008 to present
Mr Steven B Howell	Non-Executive Director	24 June 2008 to present
Mr Leslie Galbraith	Non-Executive Director	24 June 2008 to present
Mr Tod S McGrouther	Non-Executive Director	24 June 2008 to present
Mrs Kathleen Waters	Non-Executive Director	2 Feb 2010 to present
Mr Rhett Tregunna	Non-Executive Director	7 June 2011 to present
Dr Nancy Hillier	Executive Director	26 Oct 2010 to present

Corporate Structure 2013

The School is managed on a daily basis by the School Executive, which comprises the following members:

Dr Nancy Hillier (Principal and CEO)

Ms Lynn Phelan (Business Manager)

Ms Lorna Probst (Head of Pittwater House Girls College)

Mr Mark Page (Head of Pittwater House Grammar School)

Mrs Ruth Achurch (Head of the Junior Schools)

Mr James Walmsley (Head of Teaching and Learning)

(Note: for 2014 Mr Mark Page became the Director of Positive Education and Mr Mark Trollope was appointed as Head of Grammar)

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

Performance in External Tests and Examinations

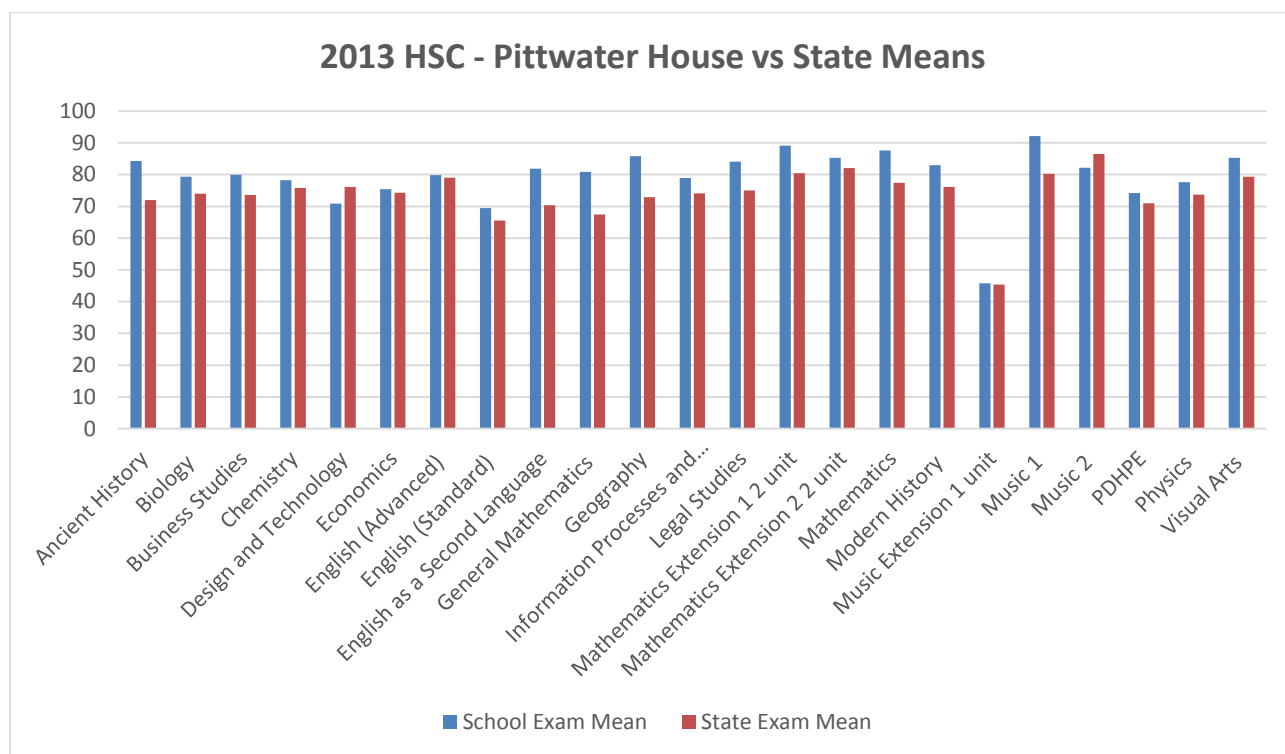
Higher School Certificate 2013

Pittwater House HSC students performed well in 2013. A summary of the results are below.

- Ancient History – 92% achieved in the top two Bands.
- Biology – 33% achieved in the top two Bands.
- Business Studies – 67% achieved in the top two Bands
- Chemistry – 50% achieved in the top two Bands.
- English (Advanced) – 50% achieved in the top two Bands.
- French Extension 1 – 100% achieved in the top two Bands.
- Legal Studies – 80% achieved in the top two Bands.
- Geography – 100% achieved in the top two Bands.
- General Mathematics – 65% achieved in the top two Bands.
- Mathematics – 100% achieved in the top two Bands.
- Mathematics Extension 1 – 100% achieved in the top two Bands.
- Mathematics Extension 2 – 100% achieved in the top two Bands.
- Modern History – 100% achieved in the top two Bands.
- Music 1 – 100% achieved in the top two Bands.
- Music 2 – 50% achieved in the top two Bands.
- Music Extension 1 – 100% achieved in the top two Bands.
- PDHPE – 90% achieved in the top two Bands.
- Physics – 44% achieved in the top two Bands.
- Visual Arts – 50% achieved in the top two Bands.



Note: Band 6 indicates the highest level of performance in a 2 Unit course and is awarded to those students achieving results in a course between 90 and 100%.



HSC Performance Compared to State and Previous Years

A comparison of Pittwater House HSC Examination performance with state wide performance over 2012 to 2013	School Mean 2013	State Mean 2013	School Mean 2012	State Mean 2012
Ancient History	84.29	71.98	79.12	69.35
Biology	79.37	73.99	76.47	72.46
Business Studies	79.94	73.63	83.84	73.98
Chemistry	78.2	75.85	73.52	75.51
Design and Technology	70.9	76.1	77.15	76.08
Drama	NA	NA	76.88	77.77
Economics	75.38	74.31	77.72	75.23
English Standard	69.47	65.48	75.51	68.27
English Advanced	79.82	79.06	80	79.56
English (ESL)	81.8	70.34	76.03	71.76
English Extension 1 (scored out of 50)	32.65	40.28	39.42	40.24
English Extension 2 (scored out of 50)	NA	NA	36.65	38.58
Geography	85.73	72.89	80.15	73.71
IPT	78.91	74.11	89	71.05
Legal Studies	84.1	75	82.22	74.44
General Mathematics	80.83	67.46	81.41	69.2

A comparison of Pittwater House HSC Examination performance with state wide performance over 2012 to 2013	School Mean 2013	State Mean 2013	School Mean 2012	State Mean 2012
Mathematics	87.56	77.39	85.34	77.64
Mathematics Ext. 1	89.1	80.46	86.82	81.42
Mathematics Ext. 2	85.27	82.07	91.12	82.78
Modern History	82.93	76.1	73.09	75.61
Music Extension 1	45.8	45.38	NA	NA
Music 1	92.1	80.26	83.3	80.17
Music 2	82.1	86.49	NA	NA
PDHPE	74.18	70.98	82.82	72.58
Physics	77.64	73.68	67.18	73.82
Visual Arts	85.3	79.29	81.87	79.39
Chinese Background Speakers	NA	NA	86.3	81.39
French Continuers	32.65	40.28	73.27	81.8
French Extension 1 (scored out of 50)	75.1	82.51	NA	NA

RoSA - Record of School Achievement

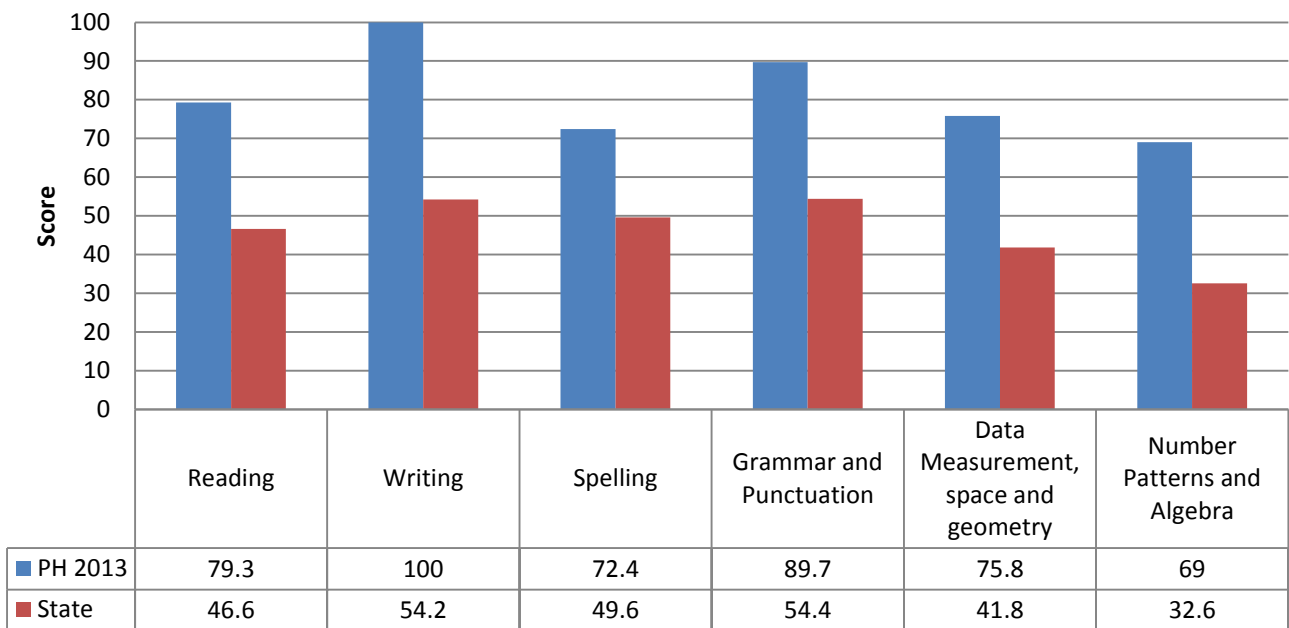
In 2013 only one Pittwater House students left school in Year 10 with the purpose of joining the workforce. Therefore, one RoSA credential was awarded.

NAPLAN 2013

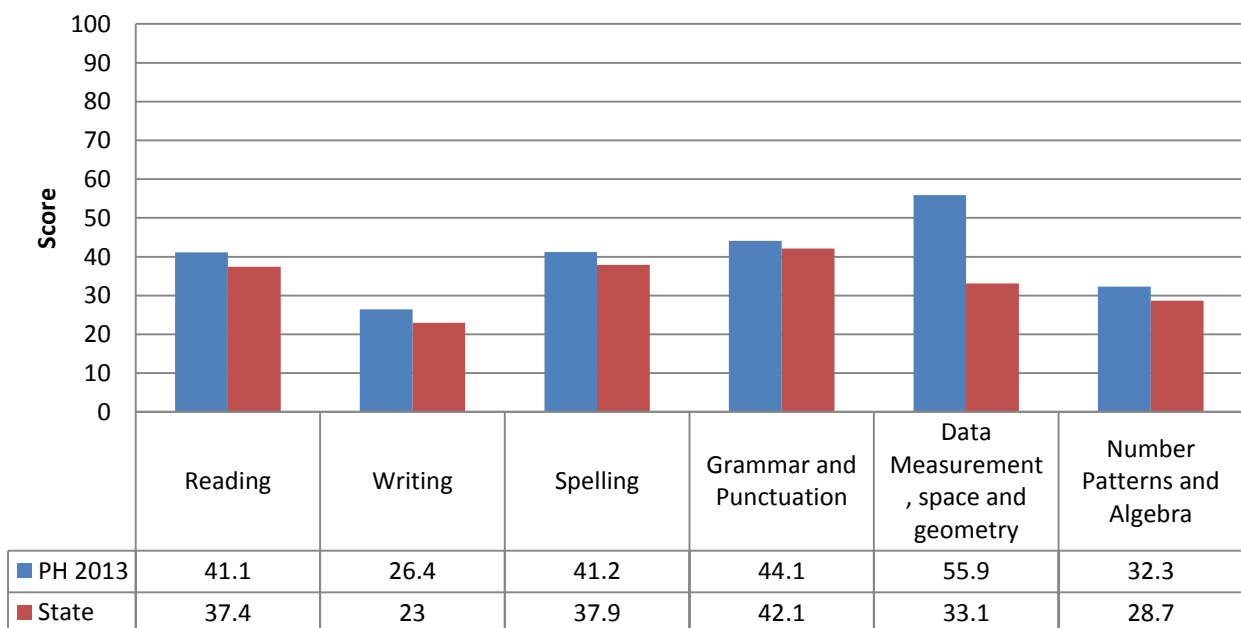
Our 2013 NAPLAN results continued to be impressive with all groups getting well above the state average in each of the areas of assessment. Year 3 in particular deserve special praise for some truly outstanding results this year across all six areas of the test.

Although high class averages are pleasing, we're most interested in how our students are progressing over time and whether there are any statistically significant improvements or decreases on improvement that we need to work on. The initial analysis of the results indicates that the majority of students demonstrated individual growth in performance well above the state average.

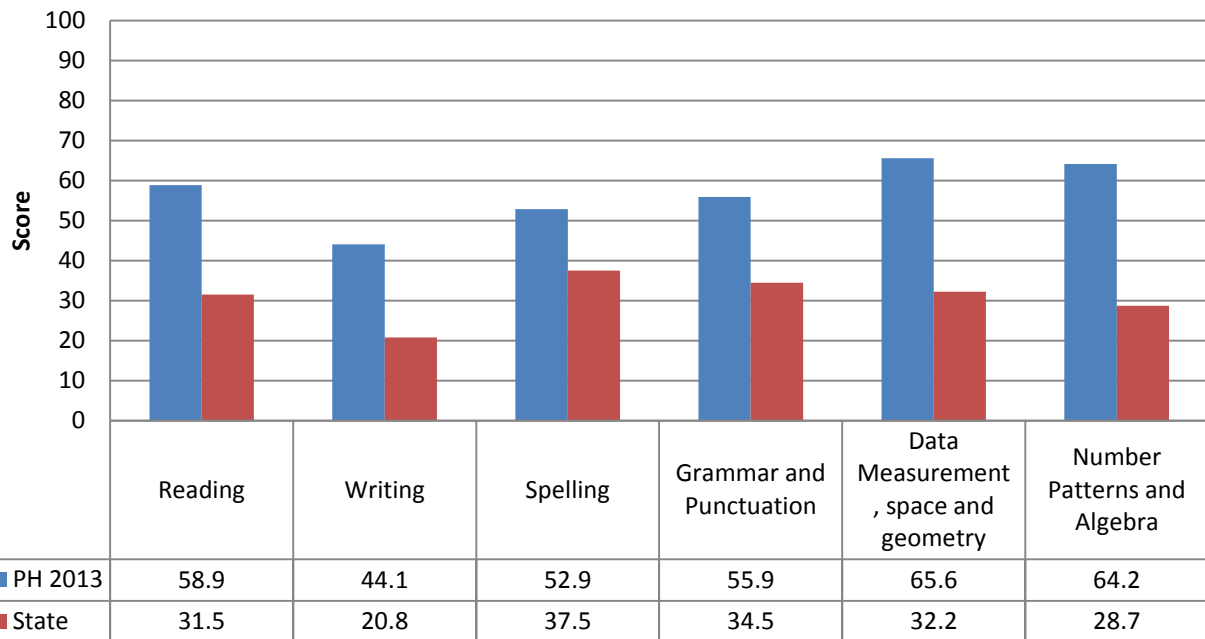
Grade 3 NAPLAN 2013 Percentage of Students in Top Two Bands



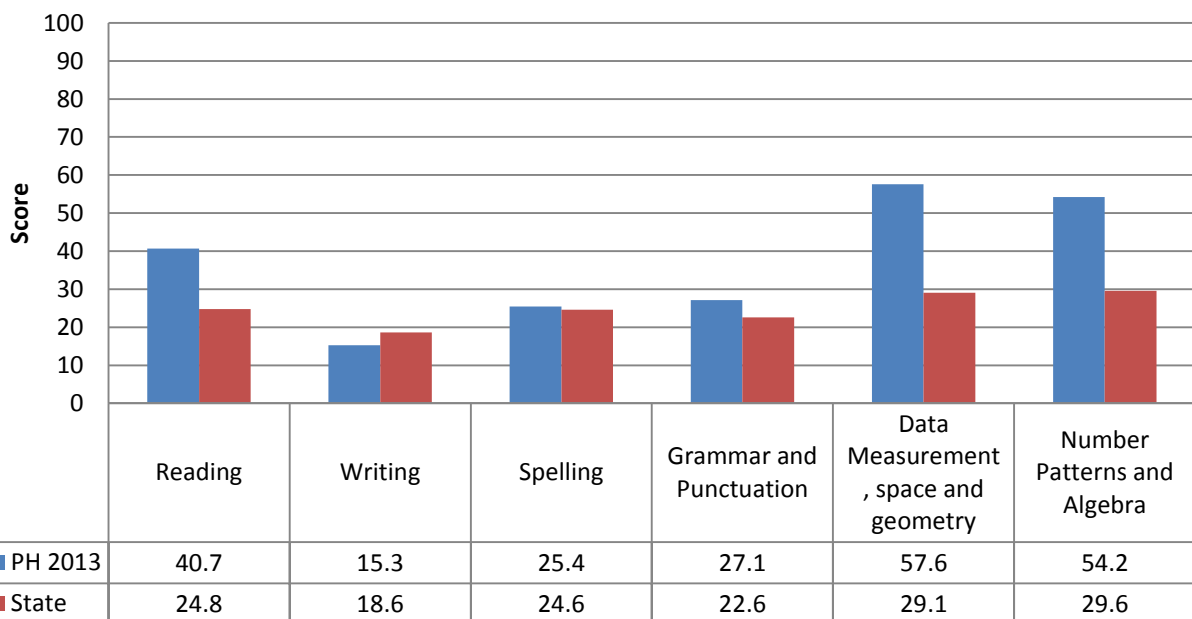
Grade 5 NAPLAN 2013 Percentage of Students in Top Two Bands



Grade 7 NAPLAN 2013 Percentage of Students in Top Two Bands

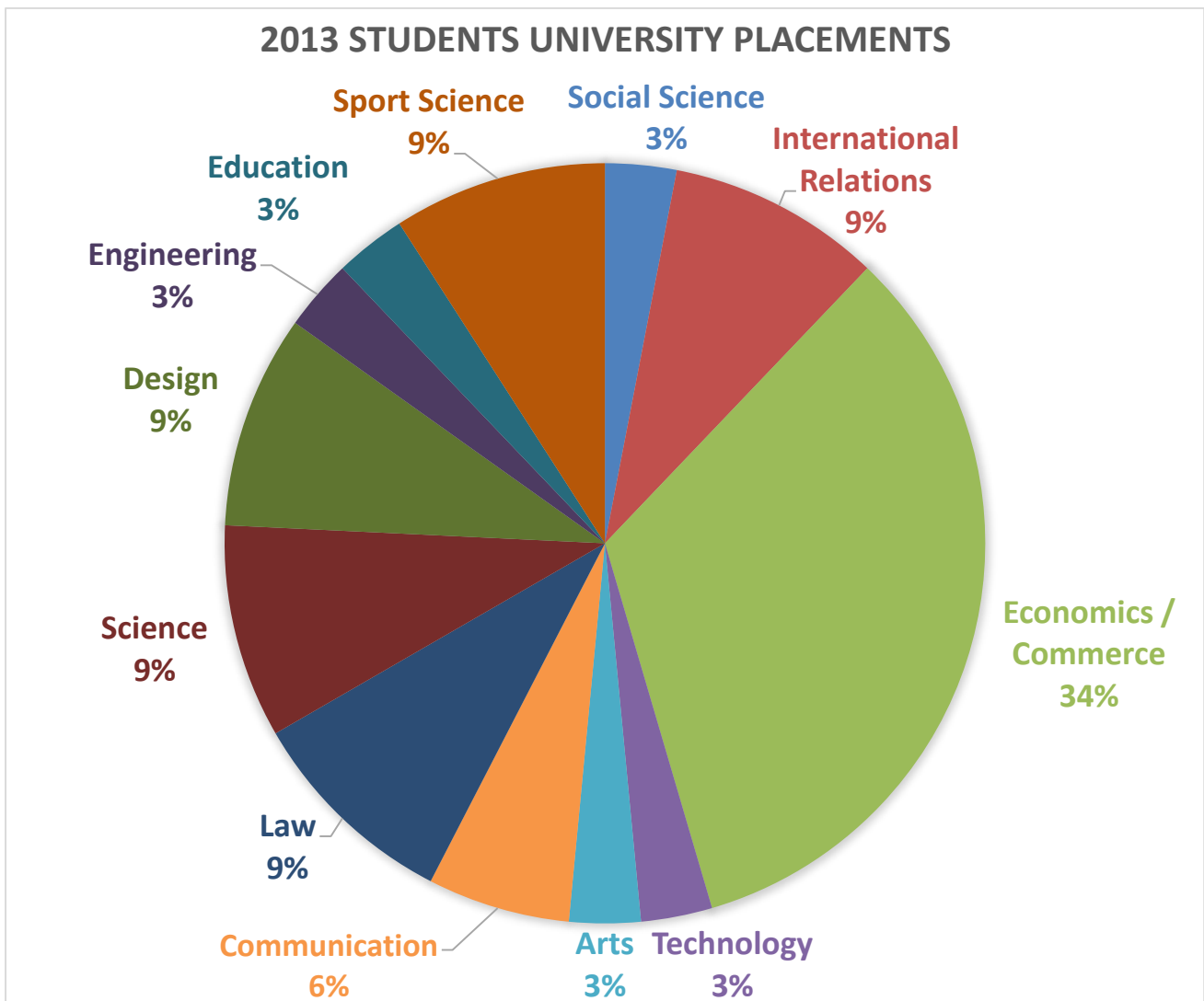


Grade 9 NAPLAN 2013 Percentage of Students in Top Two Bands



Post School Destinations

The 2013 Higher School Certificate graduates were extremely successful with their university offers. The majority of the Pittwater House students choose to go onto further university study. The table below outlines the offers made by Tertiary institutions for 2014.



Professional Development

At Pittwater House we encourage continual learning in a wide range of professional development areas through external and internal training. A range of the external professional learning activities have been included below. This has been supplemented through our weekly in-house professional development. Every Wednesday from 3.30 to 4.30pm all staff participated in school based professional development, where the teachers have the opportunity to report back from external training as well as to collaboratively develop their ICT skills, subject mastery, pastoral skills and effective assessment techniques.

HSC Marking was again encouraged as further professional development for our Year 12 teachers. Teachers in 2013 completed HSC marking across most faculties. These teachers learn the particular qualities of answers that distinguish different band results and return to school to emphasise that knowledge.

Description of Professional Learning Activity

AIS – Practical and Investigative Approaches to Measurement
Pearson – Kindergarten Conference
AIS – Planning and programming the Australian Curriculum
GTA Annual Conference
Rod Lane – Secondary School Assessment Strategies
Oxford University Press – Australian Curriculum
History Teachers Association – New Teacher’s Training
History Teacher Association – State Conference
AIS – Go Google
Lifeguard Course
Bell Shakespeare – Shakespeare in the Classroom
AIS – ACARA Update
AIS – HSC English Prescriptive Texts
UTS - Engineering and IT Teachers Day
ICTENSW Workshop
AIS – Transform Professional Practice
AIS – Maths Conference Australian Curriculum
IPSHA – Deputies Conference
AIS – Beyond Dreaming
AIS – Tablet Maths
Vision and Learning Seminar
AIS – Tablet Maths
IPSHA – K-2 Umbrella Group
AIS – Australian Curriculum Programming Science
Science Teachers Association – Biology a Continuum of Learning
DET – Languages Extension Workshop
NSW Board of Studies – Conference
Macquarie University – Ancient History Conference
Loreto Normanhurst – Connected Learners conference
Board of Studies – HSC Geography Examination Review
TTA – Workshop Equipment Competency
AIS – Australian Curriculum Maths implementation
AIS – Exploring Pathways in the secondary school
Autism Training
TAA – Getting the Best Extension 1 Mathematics Results
Primary Connections 2014
Teaching Excellence in a Multi Stage and Multi Ability Classroom
IPSHA – ICT Group
AIS – Performance Conversations
AIS – Feedback for Growth
Empower kids to overcome anxiety
The Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People
ACHPER – PDHPE HSC Marking Simulation workshop
Game Sense for Teaching and Coaching
ANZELA – Developments in the Area of Child Protection
Science Teachers Association – Physics and Continuum of Learning
AIS – Languages in Primary Schools

AIS – Une Journe Pas Comme Les Autes
 Identify and Respond to children and young people at risk of harm
 EduTECH – Conference
 AHISA – Principals Conferences
 AHISA – Directors of Studies Conferences

School Determined Improvement Targets

Pittwater House has an ongoing commitment to quality teaching and pastoral care through its strong professional development of staff, goal setting and reflection.

Achievement of Priorities of 2012 for 2013		
Areas	Priorities in 2012	Achieved in 2013
Teaching and Learning	Australian Curriculum planning K-6 for English and Year 7 and 9 for English, Maths, Science and History.	Training and programming completed ready for implementation in 2014.
	Continued focus on Visible Thinking strategies	Targeted in internal professional Development
	Continued focus on the use of 21 st century tools to enhance engagement and learning. Aim to establish a 2013 BYOD practice.	Year 9 BYOD Laptop program implemented successfully
	Continued focus on HSC and NAPLAN results.	Ongoing focus for professional development
	Focus on improving literacy in all students K-12.	Restructure of English Department. Targeted Professional Development and Literacy Strategies implemented.
Welfare	Establishment of a Year 11 HSC preparation camp	Successfully implemented
Facilities and Resources	Painting and re-carpeting of campus	Ongoing program. Multiple rooms completed
	Upgrade of air-conditioning plant	Ongoing program. Window units progressively being replaced with split system units.
	Increase technology in the Great Hall	New audio visual equipment purchased and installed. Hall rewired
	Upgrade computer and software technology in student labs	New computers installed, systems infrastructure upgraded including storage and server speed.

2014 Priorities	
Area	Priorities 2014
Teaching and Learning	Australian Curriculum implementation Year 7 and 9 in English, Mathematics, Science and History
	Australian Curriculum implementation in K-6 English and some Science
	Australian Curriculum Planning for Year 8 and 10 implementation in English, Mathematics, Science and History
	Continued focus on HSC and NAPLAN results.
	Focus on improving literacy in all students K-12.
	BYOD/T implementation Years 5 to 12.
	Implementation of Dance as a Stage 5 Subject
	Inclusive Schooling Focus and Training
	Establishment of junior and secondary philosophy clubs
	New parent portal and on-line reporting
	Behavioural management through positive psychology interventions
	Year 7, 9 and 10 Integrated Studies and skills
Development of positive education learning environments	
Wellbeing	Leadership program implemented Year 9 to 12
	Development of Positive Wellbeing Strategies E-12
	PACT Parent and Children Seminars
	Gender specific wellbeing programs
Facilities and Resources	Painting and re-carpeting of campus
	Upgrade of air-conditioning plant
	Refurbishment of swimming pool plant and equipment
	Increase classroom space
	Replace roof structures on two major structures
	Upgrade computer and software technology across the school
	Planning for new refurbishment of Science Laboratories

Enrolment Policy

The Pittwater House School is a non-denominational, non-selective school. Applications are view on an individual basis with regard to available positions for the year of application, including any definite places offered for future years. Applications are required to be submitted on the School's application form and are subject to an admissions process outlined in some detail on the School's website. At the time of producing this Annual Report the process was as follows:



Year 7 Admission

All applications for Year 7 are placed on a waitlist and processed together approximately 2 years prior to year of commencement. Interviews will be conducted and from there offers made.

Kindergarten and 4 Year Old Room in the Early Childhood Centre

All new applications to enter Kindergarten or the 4 year old program in our Early Childhood Centre will be offered 12 months in advance.

Please see below processes for more detailed enrolment procedures.

Future Enrolment Procedures (over 2 years)

- Complete and submit Enrolment Form with all supporting documentation including payment of the Application Fee
- Once processed a letter will be sent to confirm a place on the Waiting List.
- Approximately 18-24 months prior to planned commencement of school, applicant will be contacted for interview.

Immediate Enrolment Procedures (within 2 years)

- Complete and submit Enrolment Form with supporting documentation and payment for the Application Fee
- Application is placed on a waitlist.
- Should a place become available, the School will contact you to arrange an interview

After Interview

- Following the interview your Application will be forwarded to the School 's Admissions Board for assessment
- Following this assessment you will be notified of a 'Definite Place' offer
- Acceptance of Definite Place offer is secured when the applicant has returned all subsequent documents signed with the Fee within 14 days of the letter

International and Interstate Enrolments

Applications for enrolment can be organised before you arrive in the country or move interstate. Please contact the Admissions Office for assistance.

Students with special needs or special gifts may be required to provide reports from specialist medical practitioners to enable Pittwater House to properly estimate the adjustments that may be required to be made to best meet their needs.

Detailed Conditions of Enrolment are available from the Admissions Office on request.

School Policies

Pittwater House has a range of policies regarding staff, students, parents and other members of the community. All Pittwater House Policies went through a major review in 2013. The majority of these policies can be accessed by school community members through the school intranet available to staff, students and families. Some policies are also listed on the external school website. Relevant policies are also available to prospective families and the wider community on request. Where appropriate, new or changed policies are circulated to families and/or students.

Curriculum Ethos

Pittwater House prides itself on developing well rounded students who are confident and positive individuals. We want Pittwater House learners to be the best that they can be in all aspects of their lives for education is a gift that lasts a lifetime.

Academic Curriculum

Our ECC to HSC structure ensures a seamless spiralling curriculum which ensures that students gain mastery of the necessary key competencies at all year levels

Extra-Curricular Activities

Pittwater House's broad range of co-curricular and sporting activities caters for a diverse range of interests and abilities enhancing everyday school life.

Developing the Mind, Body and Spirit

We encourage our students to open their minds, to aim high in all they do, and to make the most of the opportunities available to them.

At Pittwater House we nurture creativity and provide an environment where students feel comfortable to express their thoughts and abilities. We encourage involvement in clubs: drama, debating, music, arts and participation in co-curricular competitions.

At Pittwater House we also offer a variety of sporting activities and competitive sporting opportunities throughout the year. Unlike many other schools Pittwater House also has the benefit of many 'on-campus facilities' such as a swimming pool, full sized oval, outdoor and indoor courts.

At Pittwater House we offer students a wide selection of co-curricular activities throughout the year.



Sport

Netball	Soccer	Cross Country
Swimming	Athletics	Surf Life Saving
Tennis	Surf Education	Snow Sports
Water Polo	Skipping	Touch football
Fitness	Diving	Gymnastics
Triathlon	Biathlon	Rugby Union
Futsal	Volley Ball	
Cricket	Basketball	



Complementary to these sporting activities Pittwater House competes in the local Peninsula Independent Sporting Association (PISA) competitions.

Pittwater House also competes in many sporting areas in CDSSA (Combined Districts Schools Sports Association) competitions, which is our Zone level of representation. This is followed by AICES competitions (Association of Independent Co-educational Schools), which is the regional level of representation. This level proceeds to CIS competitions (Combined Independent Schools). CIS select teams to compete at the State All Schools against CHS and CCC.

Performing and Creative Art

Pittwater House offers many opportunities in the Performing and Creative Arts. From the ECC to Year 12 students are exposed to all aspects of the performing and creative arts. These experiences include:

- ECC to Year 12 – Music and Dance specialists’ teachers delivering an inclusive and sequential program
- All students exposed to Drama and Visual Arts, with specialists teachers from Years 7 to 12 and we offer Photography and Digital Media in Years 9 and 10.

At Pittwater House we pride ourselves on giving students numerous opportunities to perform and express themselves in a creative form. Throughout the year the students at Pittwater House have numerous occasions to perform and display their works.

These events include:

- Junior School Creative Arts Night – Music, Dance, Drama and Visual Art – K to Year 6
- Junior School Music Festival – Individual Music – K to Year 6
- Pittwater House Art Prize – Visual Art and Photography and Digital Media – Years 7 to 12
- Pittwater House Dance Concert – Dance – K to Year 12
- Senior Creative Arts Night – Music, Dance, Drama, Visual Art and Photography and Digital Media – Years 7 to 12
- Higher School Certificate Performance Night – Music and Drama – Year 12
- College Performing Arts Festival – Music and Dance Years 5 to 11

The students at Pittwater House produce a Major Production every two years. In 2013 the students came together to create a spectacular production of musical ‘Grease’. Throughout the production the students and staff experienced many highlights. Some highlights worth mentioning are: A full size Mini Cooper on stage as Greased Lightning, hand built and painted sets by our students, an

orchestra consisting of students playing all instrumental parts, and a full audience to perform to every performance. This production would not have been possible without the skilled creative arts staff who gave up their own time before and after school, weekends and holidays to ensure that the students felt prepared for this production. Besides this staff involvement, Pittwater House prides itself on using students to cover all parts of the show during performance not only on stage but playing in the Orchestra, running all Staging Elements (Lights, Sound and Backstage) and Front of House. This student involvement places Pittwater House production aside from other schools whom subcontract outside assistance to do these jobs that Pittwater House prides on giving to our very own students with staff guidance.

We offer all students a diverse range of ensembles, some being seasonal, for all of the Performing Arts.

These ensembles include:

- Junior Band and Wind Band
- Big Band
- Orchestra
- Cantabile Singers, Chamber Choir and Senior Choir
- Junior, Intermediate and Senior Eisteddfod Dance Groups
- Junior and Senior Guitar Ensemble
- Bass Guitar Ensemble
- Cadet Band

Pittwater House prides itself in having music at all events throughout the school year. Notable events in the school calendar that encompass the student's talents are:

- House Dinners
- ANZAC day services – school and community based
- Remembrance Day
- School Foundation Day Event
- Annual Carol Service
- Mothers' Day Lunch
- Easter Parades
- School Assemblies
- Prize Giving

Looking towards the future, the Pittwater House Creative Arts are always endeavouring to give opportunities to all our students. In 2014 will be offering Year 9 elective dance, Theatre Sports and looking towards to 2015 production.

Extras

Maths Olympiad

Languages Club

Robotics

Art Club

Chess Club

Maths Club

Debating

Hillary Challenge

Board Game Club

Eisteddfod Dance Groups

Environment Club

Subject Competitions

ICAS Maths Competition	SDN Interschool Debating	Northern Beaches Eisteddfod
ICAS Science Competition	HICES Debating	SMH Young Writer of the Year
HICES Maths Competition	Tournament of the Minds	Language Perfect
National Geography Competition	Extreme Dance Competition	Maths in Practice

Cadets

Pittwater House has a long tradition with its Army Cadet Unit. The Cadet Program goes beyond outdoor recreation and community service activities; it focuses on leadership and team building skills from an early age.

The Cadet calendar provides many opportunities to be part of community events on days of remembrance. One of the highlights of the calendar is the overnight camps, which give the cadets the opportunity to undertake many activities and challenges.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Pittwater House participates in The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme: an internationally recognised program designed to help young people maximise their potential.

The Award's goal is personal challenge, service and responsibility, developed through a range of activities in four mandatory areas; physical recreation, skill, service and adventurous journey.

Participation is voluntary and is structured so students can design their own unique program centered on their interests, passions or existing activities.

The Social Climate of the School

Respect and Responsibility



Each member of the School community must display respect, understanding, tolerance and realise that in the community they are ambassadors for the School.

In all Form periods, Form teachers work with their students to instil a sense of understanding and respect for others. Form teachers conduct different activities so that all members of the group feel part of that group and the group works as a cohesive entity. Students are reminded of what is acceptable behaviour on public transport, in assemblies and in class. Indeed, all staff work with their students to be aware of inappropriate behaviour.

It must be stressed that in all areas staff encourage each and every student to think about the ethos of their school and to show a respect for their peers. Inappropriate comments are not tolerated, inappropriate behaviour is not acceptable. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, Form teachers will act swiftly. Heads of School deal with serious issues and parents are notified and appropriate punishments are put in place.

The School realises the Core values are incredibly relevant not just to the School community but also our students should realise the role they play in the wider community.

Junior School

Pastoral Care



2013 has been many things to students and teachers alike, but whatever the experience, it can be acknowledged that it has been achieved with the support of a dedicated and proficient team of educators, imparting their skills and expertise to a young, energetic throng, eager for knowledge.

A dedicated period of time devoted to pastoral matters was introduced into the daily timetable in the Junior School this year. During this time the students lead discussions and raised social issues which might surface in their school day.

The students identified and practised strategies which strengthened their resilience to deal with such situations, allowing them to become proactive school citizens, taking responsibility for their actions and positively responding to the actions of others. Learning clear and direct communication skills and using the language to deliver a definite message, as well as identifying the feelings aroused, strengthened their sense of self. Reference to the School's Core Values and reflection of such, enhanced by the use of the Bounce Back program, ensured that each class was well-supported in this critical area of learning. Best learning occurs when children feel good about themselves, and of particular note is the comment I regularly hear from visitors to the School is that the children here are so happy and self-assured. The Junior School is very happy and vital place to learn.

Participation in the OEG camps saw the students from Years 3, 4 and 5 challenging their self-imposed limitations and setting new goals for future encounters. These strategically planned and carefully programed camps added another dimension to the Junior School experience. Year 6 students engaged in the study tour to Canberra where they heightened their prior knowledge of Australian governmental processes and procedures.

Creation of a second Prep 6 class at the beginning of the year and then a second Prep 5 class at the beginning of Semester 2, reflected the high community interest in what is on offer in the Junior School. As a result new staff members were appointed and have of course supplemented the extraordinary rich pool of talented educators we are fortunate to have. It is incredibly important that the professional versatility of the Junior School staff is noted and the complementary and compatible nature of their talents is duly recognised.

The student body was represented by the 2013 Leadership Team comprised of ten J6 and P6 students; two being SRC leaders deliberating over the matters brought to the meetings from class representatives from Kindergarten to Year 5.

Academic

Various cross stage enrichment groups were taken in Literacy and Numeracy with Stage 1 implementing HSIE and challenge group activities as well. Teaching and Learning in the Junior School was strongly reflected in the results of the 2013 NAPLAN results where students from both Years 3 and 5 once again performed impressively. Debating teams from Years 5 and 6 represented the School in the SDN and HICES Debating Competitions and House debates were held across Stage 3 during the year. A debating workshop was held for interested students in Term 4. For the second year Pittwater House Junior School hosted a most successful invitational day for the NSW Chess League Tournament. Maths Olympiad was a perplexing yet exciting challenge for the mathematically minded in Years 5 and 6. Junior Robotics Club ran for students in Year 4. Technology is now a given and the use of iPads, laptops, desktops and other interactive devices are common place in the classrooms in the Junior School with many students delivering their research projects and presentations via this medium across all KLAs.

Adding value to the classroom learning experiences were the many and varied excursions, incursions, concerts and parades. Students travelled to the Taronga Zoo, Calmsley Hill Farm, Narrabeen Coastal Environment Centre, The Reptile Park, The Quarantine Station, Elizabeth Farm, Glenn Street Theatre, The Art Gallery of NSW, they heard the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in concert visited the CSIRO and the IMAX Theatre as well as The Power House Museum. Visits to the School were from Australian Reptile Displays, The Beatty Clan for NAIDOC Week, Lucky Phewa for World Harmony Day, and Tony Bones for Book Week.

Specialist teachers provided exciting experiences in their specific learning areas and the students' achievements were on exhibit for parents, families and friends at the various celebrations such as the sporting carnivals, the creative arts evening, the languages evening, the Easter hat parade and the book character parade.

Sports

Amongst the many noteworthy calendar events this year; The Swimming Carnivals that began the year were a highlight. The ECC, Years K-2 and Years 3-12 Athletics Carnivals were also fine events and the Cross Country carnivals in Bathurst and at Eastern Creek a treat. As well as representative sport, the students excelled in their Friday sports sessions in the PISA competition and in House competitions at school. The students played soccer, netball, tee-ball, rugby league, AFL and rugby union. Back at School, the skills of the games, swimming and gymnastics were taught to the students on the oval, in the pool and in the indoor sports centre. Dance continued in the Junior School with each class from K to 6 performing in an amazingly entertaining concert. Surfing became an incredibly popular sporting pursuit with the introduction of surfing lessons in Term 4

Co-Curricular

A variety of clubs and academies were offered before and after school as well as at lunch times. These included art and craft club, languages club, futsal club, eisteddfod dance, gardening club, debating, basketball academy, athletics academy, skipping club, chess club, surfing club, sewing club, drama club and percussion club. These clubs offered many students new and interesting skills and pastimes.

The eisteddfod dance troupes had great success with the Intermediate dancers being awarded first place in the Extreme Dance Eisteddfod and the Junior dance troupe being awarded second and third places in the Extreme Dance Eisteddfod and the Northern Beaches Dance Eisteddfod respectively. The Junior School students raised close to \$10,000 for a number of charities to cap off their very successful year.

Secondary School

Pastoral Care - A strong sense of belonging is a feature of the Pittwater House family

At Pittwater House, we believe that citizens of tomorrow require a broad education encompassing academic knowledge and emotional intelligence. They must build resilience, positive self-esteem and a respect for all mankind and the environment.

The care and development of the whole person is a critical value which underpins the Pittwater House ethos. Through the role modelling of staff, students build an intrinsic respect for each other and develop a sense of care and responsibility for all.



Our pastoral care program pervades every aspect of our curriculum and is delivered by Form Teachers, House Teachers, Heads of School and the School Counsellors. Through this nurturing approach we cultivate a strong sense of belonging in the Pittwater House family.

Being a small school, the Staff is able to monitor closely the academic, social and emotional progress of all students, both informally and in pastoral meetings, which are held regularly for each year level. From these discussions, appropriate actions are planned in liaison with families. Next year we would like to introduce a variety of Programs to ensure that all our students have the support and self-belief they need to fulfil their potential and dare to dream.

Our Mission



We want to encourage all young people, no matter what their circumstances, to believe they can achieve both academically and also in the community.

To monitor academic progress, Pittwater House will introduce regular work check meetings. Once a month all staff teaching a particular year group will meet and discuss the students' progress, their achievements and concerns. This will ensure students are helped to overcome any learning, study or revision issues. We will

commence a Study Skills Program to prepare students for the rigours of homework and revision. This Program will be run in Term 3 by the Form teacher and will assist the students to understand their learning and importance of regular study.

Pastoral Programs

Adolescence is a time of significant change and development – a time when young people question who they are, and how they relate to each other and the world around them.

We are aware that the next generation of Australians faces unique challenges. Things like the expanding use of social media, delayed transitions to independent living and the highest levels of stress, anxiety and depression ever reported by an adolescent population. We are also very aware that we live in a multi-cultural country and we must help our students gain an understanding about the different cultures.

The health, wellbeing, acceptance and understanding of young people not only affect their immediate quality of life, but it also shapes the future health and well-being of our broader society. Young people who are unable to make a smooth transition into adulthood can face significant difficulties and barriers, in both the short and long term. Therefore it is essential that we put in place these Programs to assist our students. This process of development and discovery can be both challenging and confronting, but the Programs we will use and have created inspire and support participants to courageously connect, and to take on this journey of self-discovery. We will continue to monitor all our Programs and ensure that they assist our students to have a toolbox for life.

Parent Involvement

Pittwater House fosters a strong partnership between parents and the School. The major focus is of course the students. We stress at interview and at all opportunities the need for our families to become and remain a part of the Pittwater House community; this is an enduring strength.

A range of activities are available for parents to be involved. These include:

- The PHPA (Pittwater House Parents Association) which focuses on building community, developing friendship and supporting the school through both volunteer work and fundraising events.
- Volunteer activities: canteen, uniform shop, carnivals, library, reading support, sporting coaches and network groups.

Pittwater House Parents Association (PHPA)

Pittwater House is very much a family and community school and as such our parents are actively engaged and supportive of initiatives which further enhance the opportunities of our students. Once more the strong and focused Committee of the PHPA determined an annual calendar of events in support of the parent body and the students of Pittwater House. Parents are actively encouraged to see the home-school partnership as integral to the environment of our School.

The Committee of the PHPA meets monthly and through 2013 has focused on the following events:

- The opening of the School Year Parents' Association Welcome function
- Mothers' Day lunch
- Fathers' Day breakfast
- Refreshments in association with varied school performances
- Family Camp out
- Support of School events through provision of suppers
- Second hand book sale

In addition, the PHPA maintains:

- The Canteen and 'Cool Kiosk'
- The Clothing Pool
- A schedule of fundraising for small and more major projects in support of all students' needs which in 2013, was focused primarily on the Amphitheatre

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction

Pittwater House continually monitors the satisfaction of parents, students and teachers. Anecdotal records are collected from parents in a range of fora: at Parent Network Meetings held twice per term and at the Principal's Coffee Mornings which are held twice per class each year. Records are also collected during entry and exit interviews to determine the quality of the service and education programs being delivered. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there is a genuine culture of care and support for all members of the Pittwater House community.

To engage School parents, parent/teacher interviews are also hosted twice annually and teacher emails are available for parents to raise ad-hoc concerns.

Pittwater House ran its second Parent Satisfaction Survey, with the aim of engaging parents and garnering their thoughts about the quality of their child's/children's educational experience. The benchmark survey was also run two years ago and an upward trend has been noted in responses, increasing from 241 responses to 277.

The survey ran from 22 May through until 3 June and was made up of 10 fields with more than 100 questions which predominantly focused on:

1. profile information
2. critical qualities and outcomes
3. relevance of the events
4. quality of the teaching staff and the curriculum
5. effectiveness of pastoral care and discipline
6. resources
7. engagement and communications
8. leadership
9. core values and
10. overall satisfaction

There was a reliable representation from each area of the School:

- ECC 10%
- Junior School 43%
- College 28%
- Grammar 36%

Overall satisfaction was high with more than 90% of parents stating that they are happy with their decision to educate their child/children at Pittwater House. Furthermore, 91% of parents indicated that they would recommend Pittwater House to others.

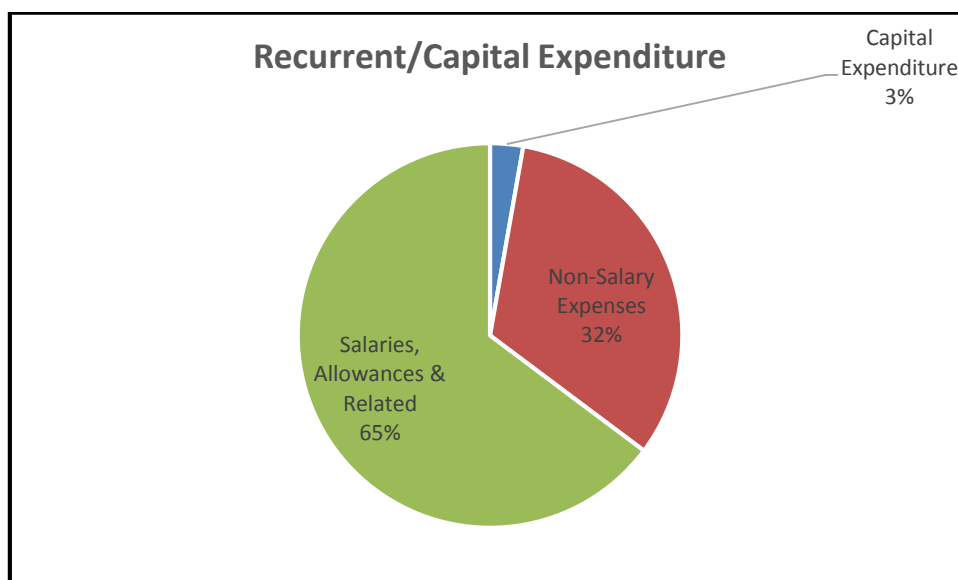
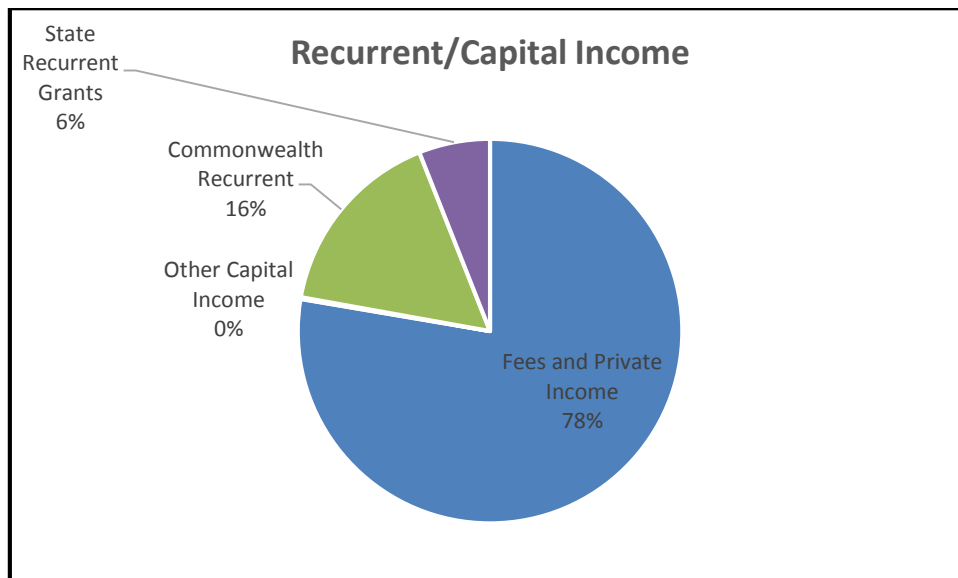
When parents were asked to rank the importance of 13 key Pittwater House qualities they ranked the provision of a 'well-rounded education' the most highly at 96.5% and 'caring atmosphere' the second most important quality at 96%.

The key outcomes that are important to their child/children were identified as 'good decision making' 83.5% and 'well prepared for life after school' 81.6% as their top two outcomes.

More than 84% of parents strongly agree that their 'child/children' were happy to attend Pittwater House; and 83% also said that 'Pittwater House is a safe place in which to learn.'

Finance

Pittwater House is a not-for-profit organisation, but adheres to contemporary commercial business practices to ensure that finances are managed in an effective and efficient manner. The accounts of Pittwater House are subject to an annual audit by a registered audit organisation. The charts below show the sources of income gained during the 2013 calendar year and the areas of expenditure.



Fundraising

Parents and friends of The Pittwater House Schools can make tax deductible gifts to the Pittwater House Building Fund. Money can be donated by electronic funds transfer to the Building Fund bank account, by cheque made out to the Pittwater House Building Fund or by means of a monthly direct debit. Please contact the Business Manager if you would like to donate to current or future capital projects to improve the amenity of our school.

Gifts and Donations

In addition to the anonymous supporters, the following supporters contributed to the Building Fund in 2013:

The Beric Family, Mr Vik Bhandari, Mr Graham Brooke, The Burnette Family, The Crighton Family, Mrs Debra Cleveland, The Cleworth Family, The Dennison Family, The Dew Family, The Flutey Family, The Graziano Family, Mrs Tracey Green, Mr Keith Griffiths, Mr Barclay and

Mrs Dawn Hancock, Ms Lisa Harvey, Mrs Shelly Hemmings, Dr Nancy Hillier, The Howell Family, Mr Riaz Hussain, The Irish Family, The Jarvis Family, The Jury Family, The Klein Family, The Kleinekathoefer Family, Mrs Nicola Lambert, Ms Tina Leck, The Lee Family, The Lindfield Family, Mr Neil McAlpin, The McCann Family, The McLean Family, Mrs Karen Marks, The Milijasevic Family, Dr J Nagamori, The Nguyen Family, The Olsen Family, The Onsley Family, The Paderni-Cartwright Family, The Phelan Family, Mrs Wendy Smit, Ms Lindsay Struthers, Mrs Jenny Tucker, Mrs Sharon Walbran, Mrs Kathleen Waters, Dr Harriet Webb, The Weiner Family, Mrs Cecilia Wensing

Facilities

The School continues to improve the infrastructure and built environment in which the education of our students takes place. Air conditioners will continue to be replaced with more effective, energy efficient models. Significant upgrades to the wireless network and the internet access capability is a major focus. The school pool is the subject of a large project of refurbishment. Work ceased on the upgrade to the Science block until the new Head of Science was able to have input to the process. Work on the actual laboratories will take place over 2014 and 2015. New structures to provide specialised learning spaces will be undertaken.



Staff Attendance and Retention Rate

In 2013 the average daily staff attendance rate was 95.89%. The proportion of staff retained from 2012 was approximately 79%.

Teaching Standards

All teachers have teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised within AEI-NOOSR guidelines.

Workforce Composition

With regard to the information available to the School's Administration, there are no members of the workforce who identify as indigenous. Pittwater House School employs staff from a variety of backgrounds, races, religions and ethnicities.

Student Attendance and Retention

Student Attendance

The average daily student attendance rate for was 92% each school day in 2013. As well as complying with all Government regulations regarding the monitoring and reporting of student attendance, Pittwater House has a strong pastoral focus where matters of attendance are monitored closely by Form Teachers and others charged with the care of the individual student's welfare.



2013 Attendance Rates	
Year Level	Attendance Percentage
K	94.65%
1	92.66%
2	94.53%
3	92.33%
4	93.23%
5	92.38%
6	93.01%
7	93.05%
8	90.39%
9	91.02%
10	89.47%
11	92.38%
12	90.61%
Total	92.00%

Student Population

The School had 598 students (inclusive of FFPOS) enrolled at the beginning of 2013 with 364 in the Secondary School. Students come primarily from the Northern Beaches peninsula from a range of social-economic backgrounds, as evidenced by the School's Commonwealth SES score. A snapshot of the characteristics of the school community can be found on the My School website under Pittwater House Schools.

Student Retention

67% of the Year 10 cohort completed Year 12 in 2013. Of the 19 students who did not continue to Year 12 one was an international student whose Visa study period was completed prior to the commencement of the HSC; one international student chose to transfer schools to repeat Year 10 to improve their English, one international student departed due to failure to meet the requirements of their Visa, one student left due to personal medical or illness issues, one student relocated with their family, three students were withdrawn due to financial issues, three students transferred to schools offering HSC subject alternatives, one student left to pursue a trade and seven students transferred to other Sydney based schools.